

BLUES DEFEATED - BUT NOT DISHONoured

Cardiff City 1 Wycombe Wanderers 0
(F.A. Cup - Second Round)

WYCOMBE Wanderers thoroughly deserved the standing ovation which they received from the eleven thousand spectators after their 1-0 defeat at Cardiff at Ninian Park on Saturday.

Defeated they may have been - but the gallant Blues from Buckinghamshire could still hold their heads high with pride after 90 minutes of first class soccer during which for long periods they had been the match of their football league opponents.

Wycombe, in fact, dominated the first half and it was only sheer bad luck which prevented them from being two goals up in the first ten minutes.

MISSSES

Tony Horseman was in a fine position to score when he sent in a shot from 12 yards which just sailed over the cross bar. Minutes later Dylan Evans sent across a shot which just hit an upright.

RAPID

These two incidents which might so well have been goals will, no

doubt, be the talking point of the Wanderers fans for years to come. But, as we have so often seen, near misses don't win games - it's only goals which count!

TANKER

Wycombe continued their supremacy with some hard tackling and it was against the run of the play when, in the 43rd minute, Cardiff's Tony Evans scored with a neat header after an Anderson-taken corner.

The Blues started off the second half with some relentless attacks during which Irwin was fully

extended and corner followed corner in rapid succession. Surely Wycombe would come up with that much-needed equaliser? But it was not to be....

EVASIVE

For now it was time for Cardiff to pile on the pressure with Alston, Anderson, Buchanan and Evans foremost in attacks on the Wycombe goal-mouth.

But still the Wanderers gallantly battled on, not only defending resolutely but also striving forcefully for that evasive equaliser.

FIERCE

For the Wanderers there is, this season, no third round glory to look forward to. But they can look back with pride on the day when they

made the trip to Wales and left the field not only with the cheers of their own supporters, ringing in their ears but those of the Cardiff supporters, too.

And, in these days of fierce partisanship on the soccer field, that speaks a lot for the sportsmanship shown.

THE TEAMS:

CARDIFF: Irwin, Dwyer, Pethard, Reece, England, Larmour, Buchanan, Livermore, Evans, Alston, Anderson. Sub: Giles.

WYCOMBE: Maskell, Birdsays, Bullock, Mead, Delaney, Rearden, Anthony, Kennedy, Evans, Helifield, Herseman, Sub: Alexander. REFEREE: Mr L.C. Shapter (Paignton).